

Saratoga County Clerk Kathy Marchione Advises Residents of New Travel Regulation Options

Saratoga County Clerk Kathy Marchione is advising travelers that, effective June 1, 2009, everyone is required to produce a document that proves you are a U. S. citizen in order to get back into the United States. This new requirement is part of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 and the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). All persons taking a trip across land and sea borders to and from the United States to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean are now required to produce a passport or other federally-approved travel document.

In response to the need for these new documents, the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) began issuing an economical Enhanced Driver License (EDL) in September, 2008. This Enhanced Driver License has been approved as proof of citizenship and as an alternative to a passport for land and sea border crossings to and from the United States to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean. County Clerk Marchione said that an Enhanced Driver License can be obtained from any of the three Saratoga County Department of Motor Vehicles offices with proof of citizenship, two proofs of NYS residency, proof of identity such as a driver's license or non-driver ID card, and your social security card. Enhanced Driver Licenses cost \$30 more than a driver license and are valid for up to eight years as a driver license and 10 years as a non-driver ID. An Enhanced Driver License cannot be used for air travel between the U.S. and other countries but can be used for domestic air travel within the United States.

If you require a passport, this can be obtained from the County Clerk's Office. You must apply for a passport in person if this is your first U.S. Passport, if you are under the age of 16 or if your previous passport was issued when you were under the age of 16. You must also apply in person if your previous passport was lost, stolen or damaged, if the passport was issued more than 15 years ago, or if you are unable to legally document a change in name. When applying in person for a passport, you must complete Form DS-11, *Application for a U.S. Passport*. You must also provide evidence of U.S. Citizenship, present identification with current address, and 2 identical 2" X 2" color passport photos. Photos can be taken in the County Clerk's Office for a fee of \$10. The fee for a passport is \$75 (\$60 for those under 16) payable to the U.S. Department of State, plus a \$25 processing fee payable to the

Saratoga County Clerk's Office. Expedited service, for those who need their passport in a hurry, can be requested for an additional \$60 payable to the U.S. Department of State, plus overnight delivery costs.

County Clerk Marchione reminds parents that, when applying for a passport for a minor under the age of 16, both parents must appear with the minor. The minor must submit evidence of Citizenship and both parents (guardians) must submit evidence of relationship along with identification.

The Saratoga County Clerk's Office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 5:00 for general transactions and from 8:00 to 4:15 for passport applications and recordings.